

# Wednesday's Wisdom

a weekly short note from Mike Minear

## Embracing Real Faith in Suffering

Last week Richard Mendel asked who is Rich Willis? Rich was a member of our congregation that lost his battle with cancer, but had a remarkable attitude towards living. On June 7, 2009, a few weeks before his passing he delivered a lesson on attitude and the choices we have in life. (The devil doesn't make us do anything.) Watching this DVD will be well worth your time, (about 40 min) and I would be delighted in sending you a free copy!

Suffering should not be seen as destructive but rather beneficial. When we face suffering we become aware that there is a place better than this world (Hebrews 11:16). We come to face the fact that we are *mortal* and this life is temporary (Ecclesiastes 12:1-14; James 4:14). We are confronted with a mind set on the need for repentance (Jonah 2:1-4). We focus on the need of salvation (Luke 23:39-43; Acts 16:25-33). We discover the strength of our faith (1 Peter 1:6-9; Revelation 2:10). We develop character and hope (Romans 5:1-5). We need to embrace the truth that this mortal life is not the end all be all of our existence (Hebrews 9:27). God does care (1 Peter 5:7) but is also completely just in allowing us to have freedom of choice and its consequences (Romans 6:16-18). There is no ultimate tragedy that can befall a Christian. Even if suffering brings death, we are prepared to enter into a better place (Luke 16:22). Paul said, for him to remain was needful for the brethren, which is good; but to depart and be with the Lord is much better (Philippians 1:23-24)

### Conclusion:

Part of the reality of this world is suffering. People continue to believe that they could improve on this world's design if suffering could be eliminated. The truth is that suffering and pain have their place. If we never suffered, we would all be spoiled and self-centered. The purpose of living in this world is not the comfort of mortal life but rather a training ground for the preparation of the soul (Acts 17:26-27). It is the trials of life that strengthen us. Paul put it right when he said, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

**Next Week : Job's Wife**